THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Indian agriculture is characterized by pre-dominance of small and marginal farmers, who hardly have investment capacity.

(b) There is no such proposal.

Propagating Farming Technologies

3811. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new farm technology like Zero tillage plantation are cutting input costs and enhancing wheat productivity in Haryana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to progagate the new technologies in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Zero tillage is the sowing of wheat, without field preparation, directly by a specially designed seed cum fertilizer drill after the harvest of rice. It saves field preparations cost. In addition to savings on tillage cost, this technology has the potential to give higher productivity due to advancing the sowing by a few days. The problem of phalaris minor is also comparatively less.

Every year about 170 sites are covered under frontline demonstrations, where researchers involved in wheat improvement interact directly with the farmers. More than 600 frontline demonstrations has been conducted through by the Directorate during 1999-2000. During the year 1997-98 one hundred zero tillage machines were supplied to different coordination centres to propagate the new technology. By now about 400 such drills are already in operation. The large scale demonstrations conducted in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have shown that use of Zero-till drill saves about Rs.1200/ha in tillage operations, about 10 to 40% in water use, reduces incidence of phalaris minor by about 40 to 50%.